Patent Claims

1. Method for outputting traffic information in a motor vehicle, in which

- traffic messages are stored together with the respective position of the route section or point to which they relate,

- the positions of the traffic messages are compared with the respective position of the motor vehicle in which the traffic information is to be output in order to determine the distances between the respective positions in the traffic messages and the position of this motor vehicle, and

- the traffic messages are output sorted according to distances, starting with the smallest distance.

2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the sorted traffic messages are transmitted to a motor vehicle.

3. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the traffic messages are transmitted to a motor vehicle, sorted there and stored.

4. Method according to Claim 3, characterized in that the traffic messages which are transmitted to a motor vehicle are continuously updated at predefinable time intervals.

5. Method according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, characterized in that only traffic messages which relate to a selected area are stored and are subsequently output in the motor vehicle.

6. Method according to Claim 5, characterized in that the selected area surrounds the position of the motor vehicle in an essentially circular shape.

7. Method according to Claim 5, characterized in that the selected area can be defined with respect to the particular current position of the motor vehicle as a function of a planned route for a journey, surrounding it in a corridor-like fashion.

8. Method according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that

- each traffic message is transmitted together with an item of updating information which describes the anticipated duration of the general relevance of the respective traffic message,
- the average vehicle speed is detected, logically linked to the distances assigned to the traffic messages and compared with the updating information in order to detect the specific relevance of the respective traffic message, and
- only traffic messages which have been assessed relevant to the respective vehicle in terms of timing are output.

9. Method according to Claim 8, characterized in that the updating information of the respective traffic message contains the transmission time, the anticipated duration and the detection time of the reported event.

10. Method according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that

- first the direction of travel of the motor vehicle is detected,
- the direction of the motor vehicle with respect to the particular position of the traffic message is detected and is compared with the direction of travel, and
- the traffic messages are output sorted according to directions.

11. Method according to Claim 10, characterized in that a directional factor is formed for each traffic message from the direction of the motor vehicle with respect to the particular position of the traffic message and the direction of travel, which factor is combined with the distance assigned to the respective traffic message to form a local relevance factor which is taken into account during the outputting of the traffic messages.

12. Method according to Claim 11, characterized in that a traffic message is output only if its local relevance factor is higher than a predefinable threshold value.

a 13. Method according to claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that the position of the motor vehicle is detected as a Geocode using a satellite-supported position-determining system, in particular with the GPS (Global Positioning System), and in that the positions of the traffic messages are also provided as Geocodes, with the result that the distances can be determined without further conversion calculations.

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